State is weak and is likely to cause earthquake from time to time; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps have been taken by the Central Government to strengthen the ground surface of the Dam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) and (b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member refers to the foundation of Koyna Dam. The foundation of Koyna Dam rests on massive basalt rock and is not weak. It has also been grouted. Earth tremors are experienced presumably due to structural adjustments in the deep underground layers in that area.

Foreign Missionaries in India

2999. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign missionaries in India as on 1st January, 1989;

(b) the details relating to their nationality and religious denominations as well as the period of continuous stay in India; and

(c) the details of those missionaries who entered and left India during 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promises made by the Prime Minister regarding electoral reforms

3000. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister made promises about electoral reforms during 1984-85 while campaigning for the last general elections to the Lok Sabha; and

(b) if so, what are the details of electoral reforms which have been carried out so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE *(SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ)*: (a) and (b) No record of promises made in election campaigns or election speeches are maintained in this Department.

It may, however, be mentioned that the Address by the President to the Parliament on 17-1-1985, *i.e.* immediately after the formation of the Government following the General Elections held in 1984, contains a policy statement that Government are committed to a clean public life and they intend to initiate wide ranging discussions on electoral reforms with political parties and would welcome their cooperation. It was also mentioned in that statement that in consonance with the objective of a healthy political system, Government intend to bring forward in that Session of Parliament an Anti-Defection Bill.

It is a matter of record that in 1985 itself two important legislative proposals, namely, the Constitution (Fifty-Second Amendment) Act, 1985 to deal with the evil of political defections and the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1985 to permit, subject to certain conditions, the donations by Companies to political parties, had been enacted.

Other important electoral reforms which have been statutorily given effect to, thereafter are the following :—

(i) prevention of the misuse of religious institutions for politcal and other

purposes provded for by the Religious Institution (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988.

(ii) the historic step of reduction of voting age from 21 to 18——The Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Act, 1988.

(iii) section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 relating to disqualification made stiffer and to cover more social and economic offences;

(iv) registration of political parties;

(v) staff of State Government placed on election duty to be deemed to be on deputation with the Election Commission during that period and to be under the control, superintendence and discipline of the Election Commission;

(vi) introduction of the electronic voting machines;

(vii) measure to control the offence of booth-capturing;

(viii) increasing the number of proposers for filing nominations for elections to Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils to prevent the participation of frivolous candidates; and

(ix) imprisonment for a term of up to three months and enhancement of fine for the offence of disturbing election meetings.

The proposals referred to in items (ii) —(ix) above, were evolved after consultation with the representatives of the political parties in Parliament; the reforms referred to in items (iii) to (ix) are contained in the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1988.

It may thus be seen that the challenge of effecting reforms in the Election Law in order to make the election process free from corruption and malpractices and also more free and fair, has been tackled energetically from 1985 onwards and several important and far-reaching proposals have been enacted in 1985 and subsequently.

Boycott threat of Indian Cargo by the Sri Lankan Port workers

3001. SHRI T. R. BALU :
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the boycott threat of Indian Cargo by Sri Lankan Port workers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the commercial items to be affected by this boycott;

(d) whether any cargo meant for Sri Lanka is at present lying at Indian ports;

(e) whether any steps have been taken by Government to solve this crisis; and

(f) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Colombo port workers are reported to be reluctant to unload Indian cargo because of the JVP threat to retaliate against Port workers who cooperate in unloading Indian cargo.

(c) Mainly vehicles, spares for vehicles, medicines, onions, chillies and dry fish.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The matter has been taken up with the Sri Lanka Government.

System of checking over-speeding by Traffic Police in Delhi

3002. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Traffic Police in Delhi introduced a system of checknig over-speeding by vehicles three years back and considerable amount towards of fines was realised;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons for discontinuing this practice;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to long road dividers, traffic is getting chocked at the green Signals; and